

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A capacitor-based biodetector method of for detecting one or more substances of interest comprising:

~~exposing said one or more substances of interest to a detecting device, said device comprising~~

a plurality of nanogaps, one or more nanogaps having one or more probe molecules attached therein and able to attach to said one or more substances of interest;

means for exposing said capacitor-based biodetector ~~detecting device~~ to a material suspected to contain ~~said one or more substances of interest~~; and

means for measuring a one or more capacitance or dielectric properties at one or more different frequency ranges of said one or more nanogaps devices; and

thereby statically and/or dynamical detecting presence of said one or more substances of interest.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A capacitor-based biodetector method of for detecting conformations of one or more substances of interest comprising:

~~exposing said one or more substances of interest to a detecting device, said device comprising~~ a plurality of nanogaps; and

means for measuring a capacitance or dielectric properties at different frequency ranges of said one or more nanogaps devices; and

thereby statically and/or dynamical detecting conformations or other reaction changes of said one or more substances of interest.

3. (WITHDRAWN): A method of fabricating a nanogap device comprising:

placing a first selectively removable layer on a substrate surface, said substrate surface defining a horizontal orientation;

selectively removing a plurality of channels in said first layer, said channels characterized by a channel width and channel walls substantially vertical to said substrate surface;

placing a second selectively removable layer over said channels such that said second layer coats vertical sides of said channels without filling said channels, said vertical coating characterized by a vertical coating width;
placing a third layer over said layers such that said third layer fills said channels;
removing a vertical portion to expose a surface comprising regions of said first layer and regions of said third layer separated by regions of said second layer; and
removing said second layer to create a device having regions of said first layer and said third layer separated by gaps having widths largely determined by said vertical coating width.

4. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 3 further comprising:

placing a fourth selectively removable layer on said second layer prior to said selectively removing a plurality of channels.

5. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 3 further comprising:

selective removing a horizontal portion of said second layer prior to said placing said third layer.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The biodetector method of claim 13 further wherein:

said nanogaps are situated on a substrate; and

said substrate comprises an upper layer of SiN and a lower layer of Si.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The biodetector method of claim 63 further wherein:

said nanogaps are defined by containment walls first and/or said third layer comprises
Poly-Si.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The biodetector method of claim 63 further wherein:

said nanogaps are formed by removing second and/or said fourth layer comprises an
oxide.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The biodetector method of claim 63 further wherein:

said nanogaps are situated on a substrate; and

said substrate comprises any appropriate material for fabricating nanoscale devices.

10. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 3 further wherein:

said first and/or said third layer comprises any material that can be deposited on and selectively removed from said substrate.

11. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 3 further wherein:

said second layer comprises any material that can be deposited so as to provide a layer of appropriate thickness in said channels.

12. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 3 further wherein:

said channel width is a width near a smallest channel width achievable using selective mask etching.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The biodetector method of claim 13 further wherein:

said nanogaps have a vertical coating width and said gap width are of similar sizes of approximately 50 nm.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The biodetector method of claim 13 further wherein:

said nanogaps have a vertical coating width and said gap width are of similar sizes between approximately 5 nm and 100 nm.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The ~~method~~ biodetector of claim 13 further comprising:

~~attaching~~ self-assembled monolayer (SAM) probe molecules in said gap;
~~exposing said gaps to material suspected to contain ligands of said probe molecules; and~~
~~detecting bindings of said ligands to said probe molecules by measuring a capacitance~~
~~across said gap.~~

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The ~~method~~ biodetector of claim 15 further wherein:

said self-assembled monolayer (SAM) probe molecules comprise single-strand oligonucleotides;
said one or more substances of interest comprising ligands comprising ~~e-~~ one or more suspected complementary single-strand oligonucleotides;
said detecting comprises detecting bindings of said ligands to said probe molecules by measuring a capacitance across said gap; and

said bindings comprise hybridization of said probe molecule and said ligands.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The biodector method of claim ~~15~~ 16 further wherein:

~~said self-assembled monolayer (SAM) probe molecules comprise single strand oligonucleotides;~~

~~said ligands comprise one or more suspected complementary single strand oligonucleotides;~~

~~said bindings comprise hybridization of said probe molecule and said ligands;~~

said probe molecules are in a solid state during detecting;

capacitance is measured at a range of frequency within a range of about 75 kHz to about 5

MHZ using ~~two parallel electrodes used~~ with capacitance measured between them;

and

said probe is a relatively short nucleotide probe of 20mer to 40mer.

18. (ORIGINAL): A capacitor-based biodetector comprising:

a plurality of parallel electrodes arranged on a substrate with gaps between them;

a plurality of receptor probe molecules arranged between said electrodes in said gaps;

circuitry for measuring capacitance between pairs of said electrodes.

19. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:

said gaps are parallel to said substrate.

20. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:

said gaps are perpendicular to said substrate.

21. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:

said gaps are between 5 to 100 nm.

22. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:

said probe molecules comprise one or more selected from the group:

self-assembled monolayers (SAM) in said gaps;

single-strand oligonucleotides;

single-strand DNA; or

amino acid templates.

23. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:
said probe molecules comprise biologic sequence of between 20 and 60 base pairs.
24. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:
said circuitry is able to measure at a range of frequency within a range of about 25 kHz to about 10 MHz.
25. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further comprising:
nanoplumbing features to move substances to appropriate positions of said device.
26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A nanogap hybrid device comprising:
a plurality of gap means systematically arranged in a solid state fabricated structure;
a plurality of receptor molecules arranged in said gaps; and
means for detecting capacitance across said gaps.
27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A nanogap hybrid device ~~detector~~ for detecting one or more substances of interest comprising:
a plurality of gap means systematically arranged in a solid state fabricated structure;
a plurality of receptor molecules arranged in said gaps; and
means for exposing said one or more substances of interest to an integrated solid state nanogap hybrid ~~detecting~~ device, said device having arranged therein one or more molecules able to attach to said one or more substances of interest;
means for measuring electronic characteristics of interest in small regions of said device;
and
means for using measured electronic characteristics to signal the presence of said one or more substances of interest.
28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The device according to claim 26 further wherein:
said device is creating using ~~new~~ nanotechnology batch-fabrication techniques;
said device comprises polysilicon chips riddled with nanogap junctions;
immobilized within each nanogap is at least one strand of reference single-strand DNA;

a voltage is applied across one or more of said nanogap junctions and a measurement is taken of capacitance;
wherein capacitance is determined by the dielectric (insulating) property of the material in the nanogap, which changes as a result of hybridization; and
wherein detecting is accomplished by adding a sample DNA and measuring a difference of capacitance after hybridization.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A capacitor-based nanogap ~~biodetector~~—device comprising:

a plurality of nanogap junctions arrays, each array comprising a plurality of nanogap junctions;
a nanofluidic network connecting to said plurality of arrays; and
a plurality of electrode connections for connecting electrical signals to said arrays.

30. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 29 further comprising:
a plurality of receptor probe molecules arranged in said nanogap junctions.

31. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 29 further comprising:
a covering over said plurality of arrays, said covering having at least one inlet and at least one outlet.

32. (WITHDRAWN): A method of fabricating a nanogap device comprising:
placing a first selectively removable electrode layer on a substrate surface, said substrate surface defining a horizontal orientation;
selectively removing a portion of said first selectively removable electrode material;
attaching a sacrificial molecular layer to a portion of said first electrode material;
placing a second selectively removable electrode layer on a substrate surface, said second electrode layer abutting said sacrificial molecular layer;
removing said sacrificial molecular layer to form a nanogap channel between said electrode layers.